



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018	VOLUME 14	ISSUE 1
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President's Letter *Ken Sosnowski, President*

This is my last President's Letter, as I step down to allow a new (and younger) slate take over. Do I leave with regrets; not at all! For one thing, I will remain as the Chairman of the annual Book Sale, but also, I am looking forward to the new ideas and new energy that John and Phil will bring to FOSL. My two years in office have been exciting and enjoyable. The FOSL officers are dedicated and the membership is energetic and very supportive. Ann Tripp, the Head Librarian, is a pleasure to work with. She has supported every idea I have taken to her, although I'm sure that some with mental hesitation. The Library staff have gone "above and beyond" to assist every project.



I have talked with leaders of other organizations. Many have spoken, with resignation, that their clubs are evaporating. Their membership is declining and the remaining members no longer have the energy for new projects. Some clubs have merely ceased to exist. I am proud that FOSL still exists and that it is moving forward with renewed energy. I expect even better things in the future under our new president. All I can say is "Watch This Space". ♦

Board Notes: *By The Editor*

The officers and board appointed Janis Augustine to the board filling the vacancy left by the death of Helen Robertson. Janis, retired Director of the Salem Library, is a founder of FOSL. Ken Sosnowski joins the board as Past President. See Page 4 for a list of board members. ♦

Election of Officers *By the Editor*



L to R: John, Phil, Susan, and Ken

The following slate of officers was nominated to serve in 2018.

John Spruhan, President
Phil Roark, Vice President
Susan Ahalt, Secretary
Ken Sosnowski, Treasurer

All were elected by acclamation.

John Spruhan served as VP in 2017 and agreed to take the reins for the New Year. Our immediate past President, Ken Sosnowski, assumes the role of Treasurer. Ken replaces Joyce Foster, an original founder of FOSL. Joyce served as Treasurer many years and decided to take some well-deserved time off. Susan Ahalt again agreed to serve as secretary after many years in that role. Susan is one of those members who keeps FOSL growing by doing an important task year after year.

Phil Roark has been a member of FOSL for about four years. He agreed to stand for VP and take a leadership position in FOSL. We thank Phil. It's important that people from the membership step into leadership roles bringing new background and ideas. See Phil's bio on page 2. ♦

Are my Dues Due? *By the Editor*

Member dues are an important source of revenue which FOSL uses to support the library. Our Fiscal Year is the calendar year, therefore dues are due January ONE of each year. Your editor has recently had conversations with members who weren't sure if their dues were current.

How would you know?

The envelope that brought this newsletter tells you. Hopefully you can find it in the trash can. If so, pull it out. You will see a mailing label that will look something like this:

Joe & Jane Doakes
(FOSL dues paid: 2017-Family)
2222 X ST
Salem, VA 24153

The statement in the parentheses tells the Doakes that their 2018 dues had not been paid at the time this label was printed. It tells them that they had a Family membership in 2017 which expired December 31 of that year. What should they do?

Turn to Page 4 of this newsletter. You will find a membership application form which describes several membership options. To renew your membership, fill out the form and mail it, with a check for the appropriate amount, to the address shown. Or you may stop by the main desk at the library and do the transaction there. If you choose the Life option, annual dues are not required.

If you can't find the envelope, speak with our Treasurer, Ken Sosnowski. He can help you. ♦

Justice League Day: *By Ann Tripp*

Over 80 children visited the library for our Justice League Day on Saturday, November 11th, sponsored by the Friends of Salem Library. They made heroic crafts, played awesome games, and interacted with heroes both fictional and real: members of Star City Heroes came out in their professional superhero costumes, and members of our Armed Services joined us to help the kids with the different games and activities. The Friends sponsored gift bags for members of our Armed Services, as the Justice League Day program was held on Veterans Day. This was a perfect opportunity to recognize our veterans and thank them for their invaluable service. See photos at right. ♦

Library Roof Update: *By Ann Tripp*

The Salem Public Library's roof project is finally completed! The project started in early fall and took until late December, but the building now is completed re-roofed and is leak-free! Thank you all for your patience while the banging, sawing, and drilling went on above our heads. We had a full carpet cleaning to start out the new year and look forward to having a cleaner, drier building in 2018. ♦



Your New VP *By Phil Roark*

I thought a biographical sketch might be useful since, although a frequent library user and a four-year FOSL member, I likely haven't met many of the members.

I have been married to my wife, Marion, for 56 years. We have two grown children and four grandchildren. I hold an electrical engineering degree from Virginia Tech. I retired from General Electric after 36 years as a design engineer. I owned and operated my own business, Salem Software Service, for 20 years and am retiring again.

I met Charlie Draper (the editor) through our mutual hobby, amateur radio. My call sign is K4WFO. I am a life member of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. I have been actively engaged with the Roanoke County Schools for many years helping students experience amateur radio. I look forward to helping further the goals of FOSL. ♦



Pumpkinfest: *By Ann Tripp*

Pumpkinfest brought hundreds of children and their families out on Saturday, October 30th for storytime and a craft at the library, downtown trick-or-treating, and fun activities at the Salem Farmers Market! Over 80 children attended storytime, well over 100 did the craft with us, and then we got to enjoy all the adorable costumes as the trick-or-treaters hit the streets of downtown Salem.



It was a wonderful day for our community! ◇

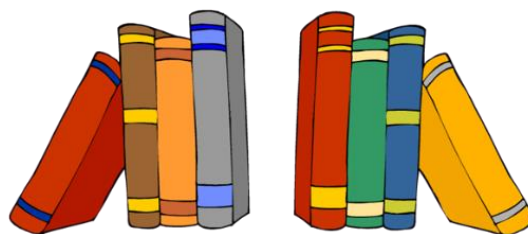
Gingerbread Festival: *By Ann Tripp*

The Friends of Salem Library sponsored the children's crafts this year at the ever-popular Gingerbread Festival on December 2nd, 2017. Over 2,000 people came out to vote for their favorite Gingerbread creation, visit Santa, and enjoy beautiful downtown Salem in all its holiday glory! Hundreds of children enjoyed the holiday crafts sponsored by the FOSLs, as well as the fun activities sponsored by the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce, such as the bounce houses, petting zoo, and smores fire pit. ◇



This Newsletter is published biannually in January and August of each year by the Friends of the Salem Library, c/o The Salem Public Library, 28 E. Main St, Salem, VA 24153-3897

Log on to the Internet for back issues, minutes, & other:
www.salemlibrary.info/Community/FriendsoftheLibrary



See Page 4 for upcoming Library Programs, FOSL 2018 schedule, including the Book Sale, and Membership information.

Notable Upcoming Library Programs *By Ann Tripp*

We have many exciting library programs coming up this winter and spring. Here are a few standouts:

Garden and Landscape Care Series by the Virginia Cooperative Extension

- *Growing Fruit in Southwest Virginia*, Monday, January 29th, 6:30-7:45pm
- *Landscape Maintenance and Pruning*, Thursday, February 8th, 6:30-7:45pm

National Day of Unplugging – for kids and families, Saturday, March 10th

- Put away that phone! Join us for Family Game time 10-11:30am and Art Explosion 2-3:30pm.

Mindfulness Essentials Series, based on the How to Live book series by Thich Nhat Hanh.

- Cost: \$25 (includes the box set of the 5 books used for the series)
- Meetings: 5:30 on Tuesdays March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, and May 22
- Each meeting will focus on one of the books in the series: How to Sit, How to Eat, How to Love, How to Walk, and How to Relax
- Workshops are guided by Mindfulness Educator Laura Leonard
- Registration is required: please sign up at the front desk

Officers of the Friends of the Salem Library:

President: John Spruhan
Vice President: Phil Roark
Secretary: Susan Ahalt
Treasurer: Ken Sosnowski

Board of Directors: Sara Ahalt, Chairman

Gale Evans Janis Augustine
Betty Waldron Ken Sosnowski

Standing Committees: Book Sale: Ken Sosnowski
Newsletter Editor: Charlie Draper
Historian Pat Draper

Membership dues (other than Life) are payable **January 1** of each year. **Consult your mailing label.** If the date shown is **prior to 2018**, please renew your membership. Pay by check (payable to FOSL) at the Library desk, by mail, or at the Member's Sale.

FOSL Schedule, 2018

FOSL **holds** four regular meetings each year. They are on the 2nd Sunday of the scheduled month starting at 2PM and last for approximately one hour. Members are encouraged to attend and contribute to regular business meetings and to volunteer to help make activities such as the Book Sale a success.

- **March 11:** Regular meeting (*Daylight Savings begins today.*)
- **March 11** Board meeting after regular meeting
- **May 13:** Children's Art Show and reception
- **July 8:** Regular meeting
- **Book Sale Preparation starts in August. Date TBD.**
- **Weekend of September 8: FOSL Book Sale. Exact schedule TBD. (*Sept 8 is Olde Salem Days*)**
- **October 14:** Regular meeting

Membership Form: Dues (other than life) are on an annual basis and are payable January 1 of each year. Your dues help support the library.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Type: Please indicate type of membership below with an X.

_____ Individual (\$10) _____ Family (\$15) _____ Sustaining (\$25) _____ Life (\$75)

Please mail to: Friends of the Salem Library, c/o The Salem Public Library, 28 E. Main St, Salem, VA 24153. Make checks payable to: *Friends of the Salem Library* or *FOSL*. You may also drop this form and your check at the Library Desk.